



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

AUG - 8 2018

[REDACTED]  
Northport, New York 11768

Subject: Preliminary Assessment Petitions for Northport Middle School – FKA Middleville School and Steers Park, located in Northport, N.Y., Town of Huntington, Suffolk County.

[REDACTED]

Thank you for reaching out to our agency to express your concern regarding the potential suspected release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants at the above-referenced locations. In your Petitions for a Preliminary Assessment, you indicated that you were concerned that students, school employees (both current and former), as well as individuals using the facilities at Steers Park were at risk of exposure to contamination from historical activities in these locations. EPA has carefully reviewed your requests, which we take very seriously, particularly because of the presence of children at both the locations you have identified.


In response to your two separate requests, as an initial step in the Preliminary Assessment process, EPA conducted an extensive search of Federal and State environmental records databases for both Northport and the Town of Huntington, New York, to identify sites or releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants that may be eligible for a response under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund. In addition, EPA contacted the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for any records or additional information that it may have regarding these locations.

Based on this search, in addition to the middle school and public park locations identified in your letters, EPA identified one additional site potentially eligible for assessment under the Preliminary Assessment Petition, the Northport Veterans Administration Medical Center. As described in the enclosed summary of EPA's findings, one site has had a Preliminary Assessment completed. The other two locations either have been or will be addressed by the Village of Northport in coordination with the NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health.

EPA has a close working relationship with NYSDEC, and we expect them to be diligent in addressing the concerns posed by your letters, particularly in light of the fact that children are the primary users of these locations. With confidence in NYSDEC's approach, EPA has concluded that conducting a parallel federal Preliminary Assessment for the Northport Middle School and Steers Park would not provide any additional new information that would not otherwise be identified under NYSDEC's oversight. The work already conducted or planned by the Town of Northport and NYSDEC on the individual sites is equivalent to the level of evaluation that would be performed as part of a new EPA Preliminary Assessment.

If you would like further information about the sites that are identified in the enclosure, I have included contact information for each. If you have any further questions or concerns pertaining to your petition request, please contact me at (212) 637-4380 or James Desir, Site Assessment Manager of the Pre-Remedial Section at (212) 637-4342.

Sincerely yours,



 John Prince, Acting Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

Enclosure

cc: Robert Banzer, Superintendent, Northport Middle School  
Tim Brojer, Village of Northport  
Michael Hughes, NYSDOH  
Hugh Cirrito, NYSDEC  
Steven Scharf, NYSDEC  
Yin Zhao, NYSDEC



**SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS  
NORTHPORT, NEW YORK  
TOWN OF HUNTINGTON  
SUFFOLK COUNTY**

**Steers Park**

**Background:** Steers Park is an approximately 250-acre park, located just south of Northport Power Station (NPS) with several soccer and baseball fields. The NPS is a natural gas and conventional oil electric power generating station located on the north shore of Long Island. The facility was built in 1967 and is currently operated by National Grid. The NPS property includes an open field area located west of the power plant that is used as soccer fields and is leased to the Northport Cow Harbor United Soccer Club (NCHUSC).

In October 2009, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), in cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), issued a Letter Health Consultation (LHC) for the NPS and surrounding areas. This LHC was in response to a citizen's petition to evaluate releases to soil and groundwater from NPS and its potential impacts to adjacent properties, including the NCHUSC soccer fields and Steers Park. ATSDR evaluated sampling results collected by Keyspan (at that time the operator of the NPS) from the NCHUSC soccer fields; in 4 of the 18 soil samples the metals arsenic and cadmium were detected at levels above NYSDEC restricted-residential soil cleanup objectives (SCO), and there was no detection of volatile organic compounds. However, ATSDR determined these slight exceedances to the SCO are not representative of the overall area of the fields. The average level of both arsenic and cadmium for all 18 samples was found to be below the restricted-residential SCO. In addition, ATSDR noted these areas were covered with clean fill and developed for use as soccer fields. The SCDHS conducted groundwater sampling on some private wells within one mile of the NPS property and results showed tetrachloroethylene (PCE) at levels well below the NYS Drinking Water Standards. Based on this information ATSDR determined that it is unlikely that typical use of NCHUSC soccer fields and drinking groundwater outside the NPS property would result in adverse health effects. ATSDR did not have data to make a determination on Steers Park, but observed that based on the land topography, it was unlikely that any contamination potentially migrating from the NPS facility would impact Steers Park.

**Current Status:** In February 2016, the Village of Northport excavated soil in association with a new dry well project. The soil was transported and stored at a Steers Park location allocated for the Village Department of Public Works (DPW) to use for transfer and storage of construction and demolition debris (C&D) at Steers Park. The Village of Northport contacted and registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Division of Materials Management for the transport of the soil materials. The Village of Northport, in coordination with NYSDEC, conducted soil sampling from the soil pile at the C&D staging area. On February 9, 2018, EPA spoke with Mr. Tim Brojer, Northport Village Administrator, and on February 23, 2018 with Mr. Yin Zhao, NYSDEC environmental engineer. They reported that the soil test results showed the soil material stored at Steers Park was clean. EPA reviewed the data and confirmed these results were below the NYS unrestricted and restricted soil cleanup objectives. Only two samples were found slightly above the unrestricted soil



cleanup objectives for mercury, 4-4-DDE and dieldrin. The soil material was then used for grade adjustment along areas in the village.

In summary, the ATSDR determined there are no public health actions needed as it relates to the NPS site. The Village of Northport, pursuant to 6 NYCRR 360-16.1(d) under the regulatory requirements for C&D facilities, is registered under NYSDEC, Division of Materials Management to manage C&D debris at the staging area at Steers Park. Based on the foregoing information, EPA concludes that no further federal involvement is warranted at this time. For additional information, Mr. Yin Zhao, Division of Materials Management, can be contacted at (631) 444-0398. The Village of Northport contact is Tim Brojer, Village Administrator. His phone number is (631) 261-7502.

### **Northport Middle School – Formerly Known as Middleville School**

**Background:** The PA Petition expressed concerns with several conditions in and around the school building including: volatile organic compounds stored in a warehouse under the school, a school bus “depot” and associated bus idling causing exposure to vehicle exhaust, condition and maintenance of diesel fuel tanks used to refuel buses, carbon monoxide (CO) detected in school children’s blood, presence of pesticides in soils near the school building, and the school’s proximity to the Northport Veterans Administration Medical Center (VA) and its associated waste, all of which the requestor states may potentially be impacting the school population.

### **Current Status:**

- Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), and the Northport-East Northport School District are currently providing continued technical support to school officials to address parents’ concerns.
- SCDHS conducted an inspection of the school’s warehouse, located below the ground level classrooms of K-wing. The warehouse was previously used to store petroleum-based materials (asphalt adhesives, roofing tars, fuel additives). The school removed all materials stored in the warehouse area to an outdoor storage structure and subsequently conducted indoor air sampling of the school. An August 2017 sampling report indicates that multiple analytes were detected in indoor air samples collected at the school. Three separate locations within the K-wing had sampling results exceeding EPA’s residential action level of 2 ug/m<sup>3</sup> for trichloroethylene, at 3.2 and 2.4 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, and 104 ug/m<sup>3</sup> for dichlorodifluoromethane (Freon 12) at 130 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, respectively. K-wing is currently closed for renovations per the school superintendent. The sampling plan associated with this testing was reviewed by NYSDOH.
- In November 2017, the school board implemented an indoor air quality program consistent with EPA’s “Tools for Schools” program. For more information on this program see <https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools>. In addition, a consultant was hired by the school district to collect additional air samples as part of a baseline environmental evaluation of all schools in the district, including the Northport Middle School.
- NYSDOH continues to provide oversight and sampling recommendations to school officials conducting air monitoring at the school to identify any potential hazards.
- In response to concerns of odors from buses and alleged increased CO exposure to students, the school has conducted CO monitoring at various locations in the school. From November 20 through December 13, 2017, an independent contractor working for the school collected air



samples during regular school days. According to school documents, CO was only detected in the school kitchen at levels below the Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limit of 50 parts per million (ppm) and the EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of 9 ppm. In addition, no CO was detected within the cafeteria, which was identified as the nearest student occupied space. The detected CO in the kitchen area was recorded while the exhaust fans were not in use. Additional testing conducted while the kitchen exhaust fans were in use indicated that the exhaust system was effective in further reducing or eliminating the detected CO in the kitchen. Bus parking area/diesel tanks – SCDHS conducts yearly inspections of the tank. There is no indication of a release occurring from the tanks.

- On February 8, 2018, EPA spoke with Mr. Robert Banzer, Northport East Northport Union Free School District's Superintendent, who indicated that testing of soils for the pesticide chlordane was performed by the school's consultant between December 2000 and April 2001. Based on EPA's conversation with Mr. Banzer, their investigation findings indicate that levels of chlordane in soil, indoor air and on indoor wipe samples were mostly non-detect or low enough as to not warrant any action.

In summary, the Northport School District, in coordination with the NYSDEC, NYSDOH, and SCDHS, is actively assessing, testing, and taking actions to mitigate the concerns expressed by the requestor. Therefore, EPA concludes that no further federal involvement is warranted at this time. For additional information on the Northport Middle School you can contact Robert Banzer, Superintendent of Schools, Northport East Northport UFSD, at (631) 262-6604. Additional information can be found at the following web address: [http://web.northport.k12.ny.us/district/bg\\_northport\\_ms\\_information](http://web.northport.k12.ny.us/district/bg_northport_ms_information). The NYSDOH contact is Michael Hughes, Exposure Characterization and Response at (518) 402-7800. The NYSDEC contact is Hugh Cirrito, Regional Spill Engineer at (631) 444-0324.

#### **Northport Veterans Administration Medical Center (VA)**

A Preliminary Assessment was performed at the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center by the VA. EPA completed its' review of the PA on June 17, 2014 and reached a determination of No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP) in part due to an HRS score below 28.5, the threshold for consideration for the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). A NFRAP designation means that the Superfund program has completed its assessment at a site and has determined that no further steps to list the site on the NPL will be taken, unless information indicating this decision was not appropriate or other considerations make a recommendation for listing appropriate at a later time. A NFRAP decision does not necessarily mean that there is no hazard associated with a given site; it means only that, based upon available information, the location is not judged to be a potential NPL site. During the performance of the PA a potential issue related to ash from the facility's historic incinerator remaining on-site was identified. This ash area was cleaned up to unrestricted use by the VA under the oversight of the NYSDEC. Additional information can be obtained from the NYSDEC project manager Steven Scharf. His phone number is (518) 402-9620.

Sites for which a NFRAP determination was made are now being removed from the Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS) database and archived as historical records to ensure that EPA does not needlessly stigmatize these sites as potential NPL sites. The EPA contact person for this site is Cathy Moyik-Romano. Her phone number is (212) 637-4339 or via email [moyik.cathy@epa.gov](mailto:moyik.cathy@epa.gov).



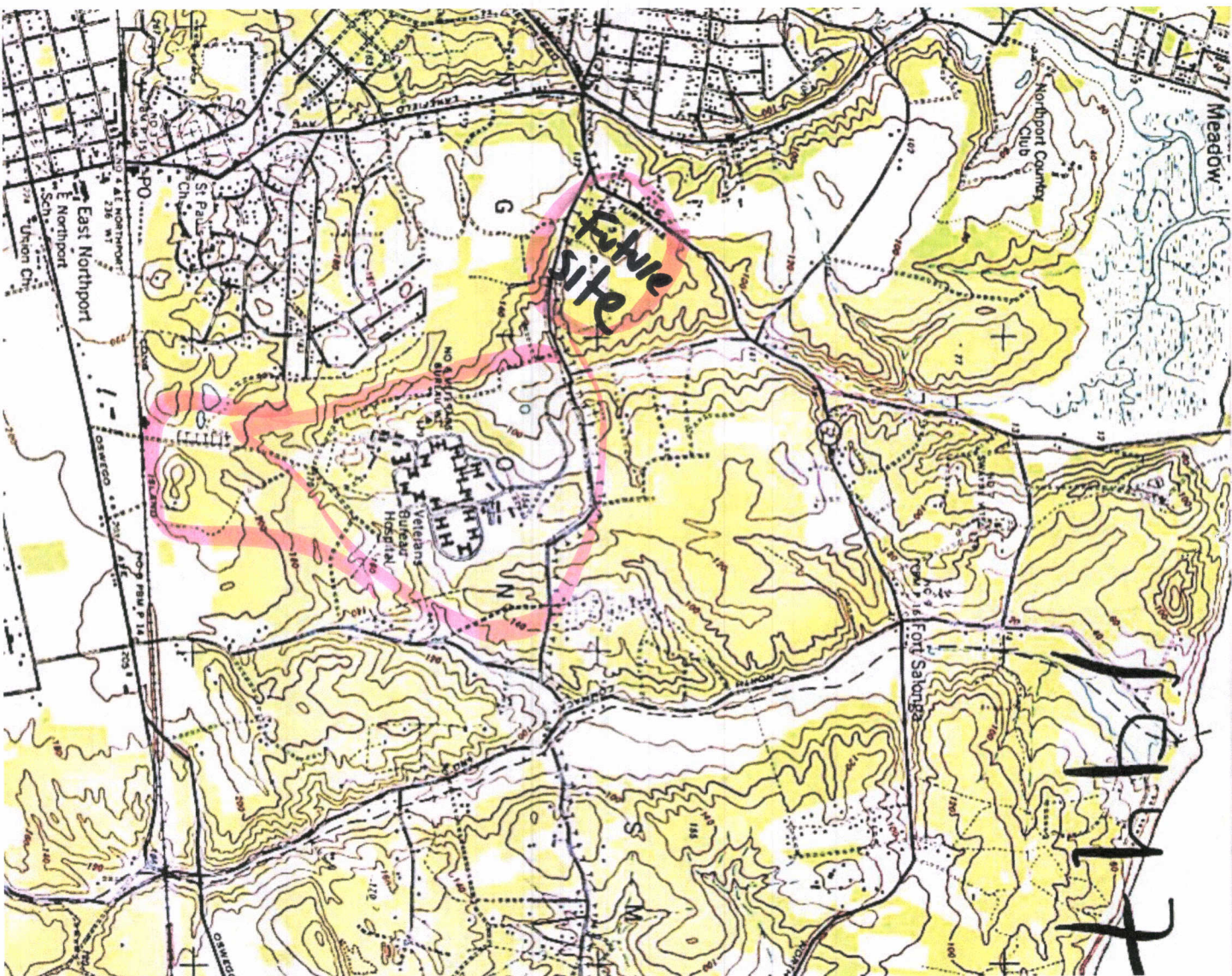
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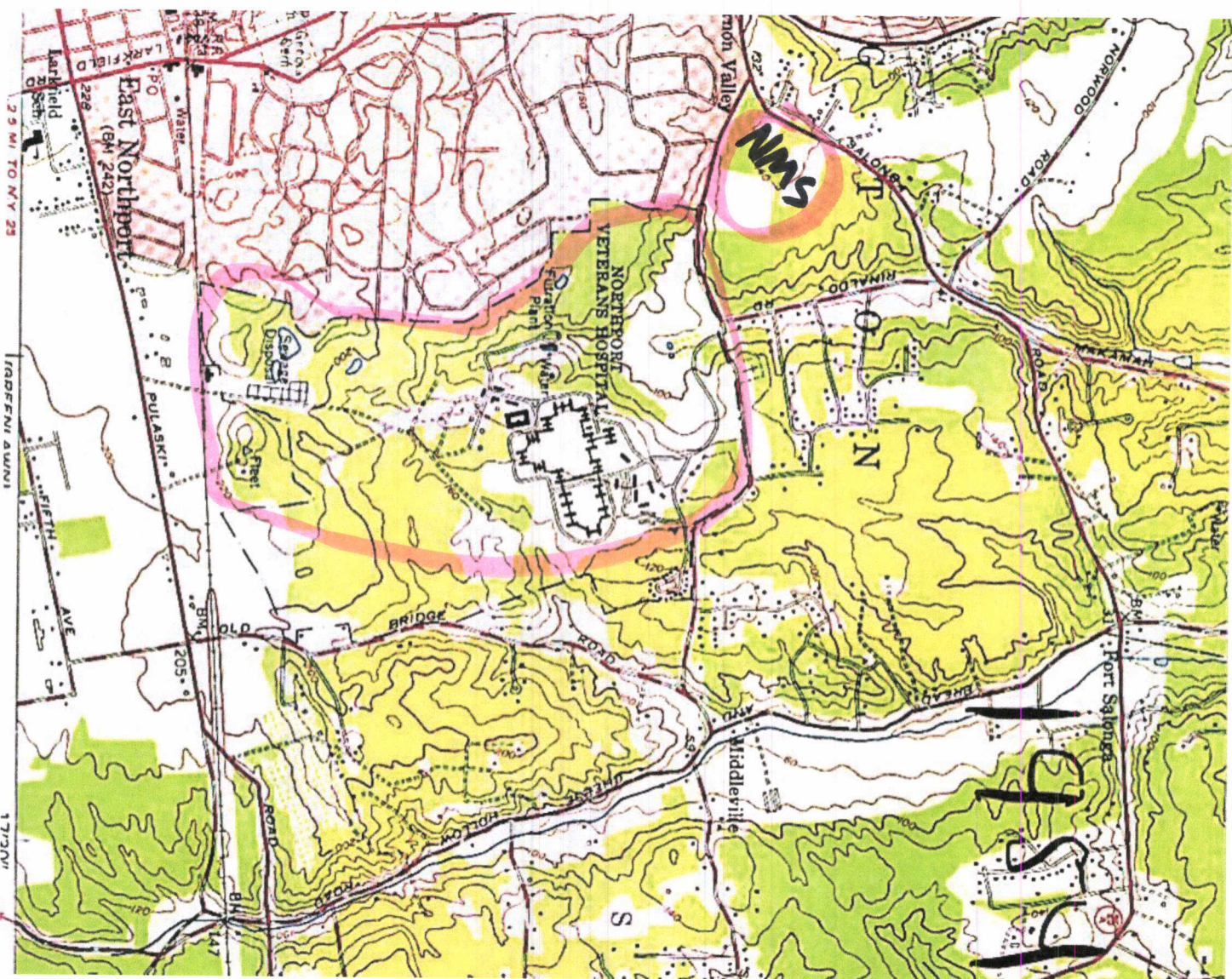
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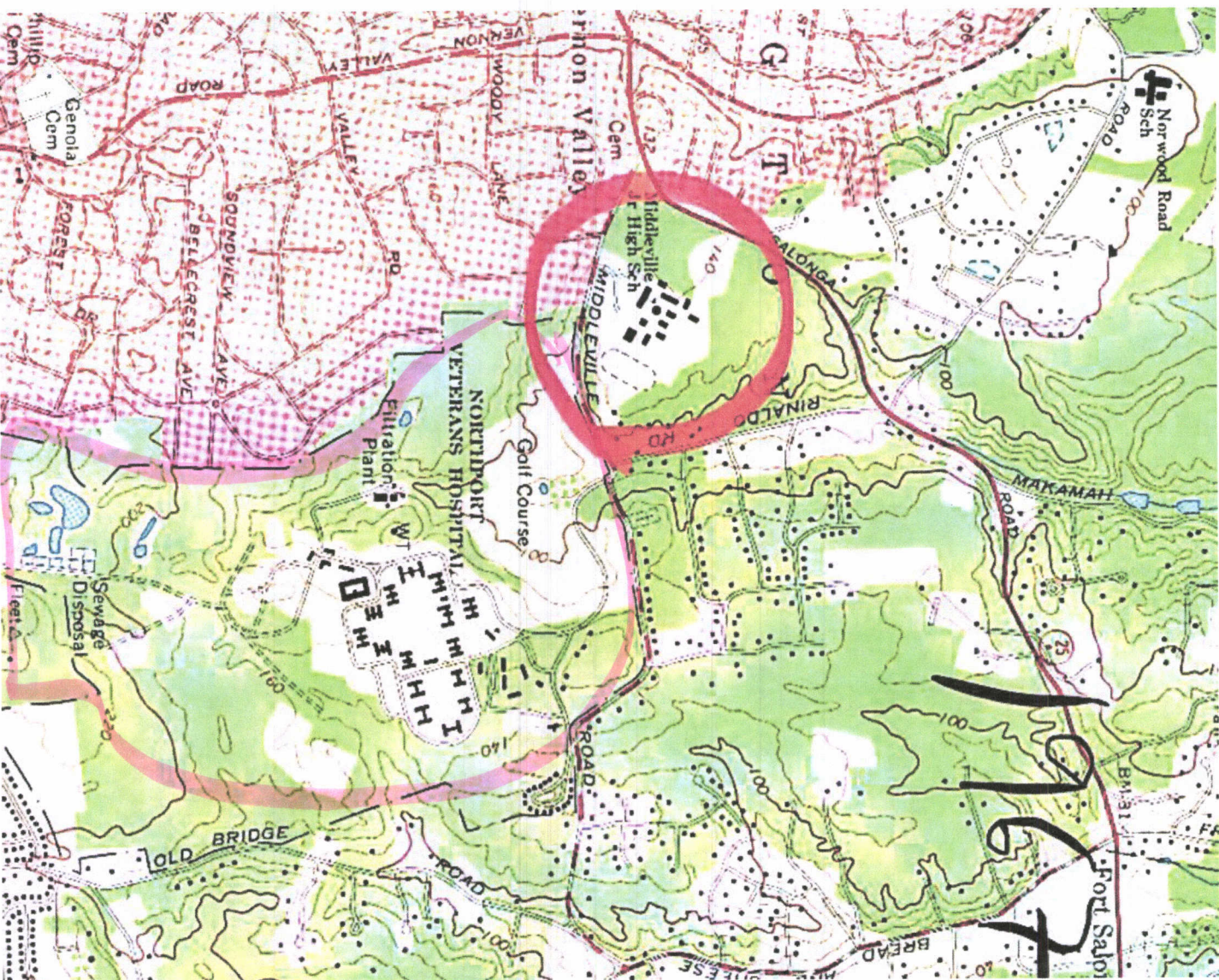


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